

## Overgeared 221

### Chapter 221

Rabbit was from a rural part of the country, but his genius and talent caused him to rise to the top of the Mero Company. In the past, he was the first to recognize that the level 21 Grid had a huge talent and suggested a partnership.

"This commoner, Rabbit, greets the great hero, Duke Grid."

Rabbit hadn't changed since the first day they met. He wore thin-rimmed glasses and gave off the impression of a cultured gentleman. There were no signs of greed in his eyes, but he looked more like a saint than a merchant.

But what was the truth? Unlike his appearance, Rabbit was as greedy as Grid. That's how he was able to succeed as a merchant.

'A true charlatan gives a sense of confidence to the other person.'

Grid grinned with satisfaction and greeted Rabbit. "You must've had a hard time. Isn't it nice to see people after being stuck in prison for a long time?"

"Thanks to the people of Winston treating me as a hero, Marquis Steim gave me many conveniences."

"That's good. I'm relieved to see that you're healthy. It's nice to meet you again."

"..."

Rabbit's insight detected the changes in Grid. His gestures, expressions, speech, etc. From head to toe, everything about the current Grid was completely different from the Grid of the past. It wasn't a simple change, so Rabbit felt a thrill.

"I underestimated you."

The future that Rabbit saw for Grid was the best blacksmith and the richest person. But the current Grid was...

"You are pursuing the path of rising to the top, where everyone will look up at you."

It was heartfelt appreciation. The Grid from a while ago would've overreacted. But now Grid combined reality and humility.

"It's a challenge. I'm lacking a lot, so I need your help. Will you serve me?"

Rabbit bowed. Then he answered formally, showing his loyalty with honest words.

"Duke Grid, I don't doubt that you are the one who will make me the richest man on the continent. So I'm willing to follow you."

Grid also responded honestly. "Not the richest person on the continent. I will be the richest person."

"Haha, then I will just dream of being rich."

"So be it."

Grid smiled as he pulled out the Great Lord's Sword and laid it on Rabbit's shoulder. It wasn't a problem that this was a smithy instead of a palace. Rather, it was more meaningful because a smithy was the place where Grid's identity was established.

"From this moment on, you will be a viscount of the Eternal Kingdom. But you need only be loyal to me."

When Marquis Steim was still an earl, he had appointed Grid as a viscount, despite Grid being a commoner. As a duke, Grid also had the authority to arbitrarily give someone a title. But he had no plans to abuse Rabbit, as he planned to give Rabbit a monthly salary that suited his title.

He could sell titles to users, but Lauel had dissuaded him from doing this.

"Both I and my descendants will be faithful only to My Lord."

A notification window popped up the moment Rabbit made the oath.

[You have used your authority as a duke to appoint 'Rabbit' as a viscount.]

[You have an obligation to give Rabbit a monthly salary of 500 gold every month. Rabbit's loyalty will fall if you don't pay this salary.]

Delight appeared on Grid's face.

'As I expected, he's a named NPC.'

Name: Rabbit

Age: 37 Gender: Male

Occupation: Merchant/ Viscount of the Eternal Kingdom

Title: Wealthy Merchant

\* The best merchant of this era. He has the ability to create demand even for simple stones.

Level: 307

Strength: 49 Stamina: 380

Agility: 150 Intelligence: 2,241

Political Power: 1,505 Insight: 1,533

Leadership: 512 Charm: 210

Skills: Composure (A+), Detection (A+), Administration (S), Business Acumen (S+), Wisdom of a Great Merchant (SS).

Born in Winston, in the northern part of the kingdom. He was born a commoner, but he devoted himself to his studies. After proving that he had talent, he received a sponsorship to the Central Academy and graduated as the best student.

He served as a royal administrator, but received unfair treatment due to his commoner status. Therefore, he became a merchant and made the best achievements.

Due to his poor childhood, he has a tendency to cling to money.

[Composure (A+)]

No matter what situation he faces, he won't lose his composure. It's rare for him to make mistakes because his brain is active at all times.

[Detection (A+)]

Can see the essence of humans and objects. He can easily communicate with anyone and always gets the best results.

[Administration (S)]

If he belongs to a certain power, the ability to manage the affairs is excellent. It is at a level that can develop a small village into a city.

[Business Acumen (S+)]

The trading ability has reached the highest level. Even a piece of garbage can be made into a product.

[Wisdom of a Great Merchant (SS)]

The experience and know how of someone who made a large company.

'S-grade Administration...'

The speed of development of a city was proportional to the grade of the administrator. The role of an administrator was very important, but it wasn't an easy task to find one with a high rating. Winston was the second largest city in the north, and even Administrator Valdi only had a B-grade. Then how fast would a place grow with a S-grade administrator? He didn't dare imagine it.

'His ability as a merchant is S+ and SS...'

Rabbit even had the ability to make goods out of rubbish. Based on the description, it was a complete scam. Grid was confused.

'How should I handle him?'

Should Rabbit serve as an administrator, or work as a merchant? Rabbit spoke while he couldn't make a decision.

"Before I came to see you, I looked over Reidan. It's good that you are clearing the fields and connecting waterways, but I feel like it's too much."

"Too much?"

"Doesn't Reidan only have a population of 20,000? If the number of fields are reduced by a third, it will be enough to feed the people."

Grid explained the situation. "Once the clearing of the fields is done, we plan to expand farming and build this up as an agricultural city. This will be the basis to become a commercial city."

"It's the wrong choice. Due to the hot climate of Reidan, only a limited number of crops can be grown. Reidan isn't suitable as an agricultural city."

"There are no problems with the species restrictions. In the first place, we were planning to concentrate and export the crops that can be harvested quickly."

Lauel entered the smithy at this time and rebutted. He had an upset expression on his face and Rabbit responded appropriately.

"Crops that can be harvested quickly aren't competitive. They are easy to get anywhere."

Lauel glared at him.

"We can overcome it by selling a lot at a cheap price. Currently, the only advantage of Reidan is the spacious land. Using the land is the only way to build up funds, so the reality is that Reidan can only be an agricultural city. No, first, who are you?"

Grid introduced him. "This is Rabbit. He was once the number two of the Mero Company, the largest in the north."

Lauel was angry. He was only the number two of a northern company, yet he dared try to decide the city's policies.

Grid handed him the Great Lord's Sword.

"What is this?"

Grid explained to the bewildered Lauel. "Wear it and examine Rabbit yourself."

"What are you trying..."

Lauel was annoyed that Grid would listen to the opinion of a merchant over him. He grumbled as he wore the Great Lord's Sword and observed Rabbit.

"Heok."

These days, Lauel was often surprised.

Grid persuaded Lauel as he checked Rabbit's stats and skills. "I'm not discrediting your abilities, but why don't you try and listen to Rabbit's thoughts? Who knows? It might help you as well."

"..."

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"I will entrust the overall management of the territory to Rabbit. I will work in the fields."

Lauel decided. He recognized that Rabbit's administrative ability was superior to his.

Grid questioned him. "Can't you also show great abilities as an administrator? Isn't it better to have Rabbit create a business company, since it will make more use of his talents?"

"Even though I have business ability, I don't have the 'Administration' skill."

In the end, Satisfy was a game. The importance of skills was higher than practical abilities. Administrators greatly increased the pace of domestic development because they had the Administration skill.

"In addition, diplomacy is included in the work of an administrator. Rabbit's talent as a merchant will manifest itself in the form of diplomacy.

Lauel's guess was correct.

After being appointed as the administrator, Rabbit reduced the scale of agriculture and invested in alchemy as well as facilities to amplify the value of blacksmiths, including Grid and Khan. At the same time, he exerted his talent as a merchant by talking diplomatically with 'Baron Butin of the Saharan Empire.'

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"The alchemists say that the sand of the desert has no value in alchemy."

Currently, Reidan's only available resource was sand. Sand was the basic material required for construction, but that was the role of sea sand. Unlike the sand at the sea, the desert sand was so fine that there was no place to use it.

Modern society could utilize the desert sand due to advanced technology, but Satisfy's background was a medieval fantasy, so its technology was inferior to modern times. Rabbit tried to use the sand in magic and alchemy, but he couldn't achieve satisfactory results.

Then one day.

"Let's export the sand to Baron Butin."

Rabbit came to Lauel and spoke nonsense. Lauel was perplexed. "Why should we export desert sand to Baron Butin?"

The desert was all over the west. There was an excess of sand so there was no point in exporting it. It was realistically impossible. Rabbit smiled at Lauel's disapproval and explained.

"I will make it so that the baron has to import it." Rabbit noted that Baron Butin owned one of the empire's resorts where many wealthy people and nobles visited. "The people of Reidan have lived in this hot and desolate place for 10 years. I will advertise it like this. The sand of Reidan remedy of longevity that will improve human health."

"...Huh?"

Lauel was stunned by the absurd words.

Rabbit continued. "It's a luxury product made with magic, and those who don't have it will covet it. I will set the price higher so that the image of a luxury product will be firmly established. The longevity remedy won't be credible if it's cheap."

"No, what type of sophistry...?"

Lauel wondered if Rabbit was sane. But Rabbit didn't care and kept talking.

"I will use Khan as my advertising model. He's older than 60, so if we put him front and center, the trust of the customers will increase and the reputation of the longevity remedy will rise."

Rabbit referred to the sands of Reidan as a 'longevity remedy.' Lauel was convinced that Rabbit was crazy. Rabbit had high stats and great skills as a named NPC, but he had a clear flaw in his personality.

But what was the truth?

"It's selling well."

The sands of Reidan were called the 'Longevity Remedy' and started to be imported at the mad price of 3 gold per 10 grams.

Once the nobles and wealthy people who visited the Butin Barony heard about the reason why the sand of Reidan was called the Longevity Remedy, they couldn't resist buying out of curiosity.

"This might cause a serious problem in the future..."

Lauel was concerned, but Rabbit reassured him.

"3 gold is huge for a commoner, but this is trivial for the rich."

Even if they knew it was a scam, they could just laugh it off. They didn't have to get angry over that level of money. In the first place, there was no reason to call it a scam. How could people know their exact lifespan? There was no way to prove that the lifespan of a person was increased or not increased by the Longevity Remedy, so there was no reason to call it a scam.

"The one thing I regret is that there aren't more people visiting the Butin Barony. For the moment, the profit from selling this will stay at around 800 gold per month. But if the rumors of the goods become widespread in the future, things will change again."

"...This is a good idea."

800 gold a month. It was a ridiculously small sum for a big city. But the product being sold was mere sand. They just needed to put the sand that could be found anywhere in pretty glass bottles and sell them for 3 gold each. The net profit was 99.9%. If the sales amount rose like Rabbit predicted, it would be a powerful revenue source for Reidan.

'He truly is a wealthy merchant...'

'This is a complete scam.'

Lauel and the Overgeared members were alerted to the true nature behind Rabbit's face.

Grid just laughed.

All types of talented people were gathering around him.

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One month in reality and three months in Satisfy time passed.

In the meantime, Reidan's crops grew well. It was because the water channels discovered by Piaro provided nutrients to the land, and Grid's equipment improved the soil quality.

The financial burden diminished, so they no longer needed to import food at high prices. In addition, vegetation started to grow, the yellow dust became weak, and the people became healthier. The sight of the sick children improving brought tears to the people's eyes.

"This is all thanks to Duke Grid."

"Ah! That's right!"

The people had been suffering for the past 10 years and were about to starve to death, so Grid and the Overgeared members were like angels sent by Goddess Rebecca. The people were absolutely obedient to Grid and the Overgeared members, who were their saviors.

They were educated and trained as farmers, blacksmiths, architects, soldiers, etc. As a result, they were able to feel a sense of accomplishment from reviving the city with their own strength.

Reidan was full of vitality.

"Have you been out on the streets lately? Voices praising My Lord are everywhere."

"Really? I've been so busy that I don't have time to go outside."

In the past, Huroi had vowed to serve Grid to repay the favor. But now it was different. Huroi respected the maturing Grid and was loyal to him based on that.

"I'm proud of you."

The ghost town on the verge of destruction had now become lively. Thanks to the Overgeared members, the monsters didn't threaten Reidan, and a small but powerful army was being trained by Jude.

Khan was nurturing young blacksmiths, and thanks to Rabbit, the overall speed of development of Reidan increased. Euphemina showed her strength in many fields by duplicating monster taming, blacksmithing and architectural skills.

In particular, Jishuka played a huge role as ruler of Bairan. She and the other two Overgeared members trained the knights and soldiers, and continued hunting the frostlight orcs and raiding the Guardian of the Forest. Thanks to this, the guild's warehouse was filled with various minerals and sylphid scales. Soon, all members of Overgeared were going to have an invisibility cloak.

The person who brought together such excellent talents and strong personalities? It was none other than Grid. Huroi's respect for Grid increased day by day.

"There's still a long way to go."

Grid wasn't satisfied with the present state. It was because Reidan was still in a deficit.

"We only have a smithy, barracks, and alchemy institute as facilities."

The number of people wasn't increasing. Taxes also couldn't be raised. Even though he made five items a day, he couldn't see any profit at all. So Grid was in a bad mood. What would've happened if Grid sold the 450 items he made over the past three months to users instead of investing it in Reidan?

'I would've earned at least 1.5 billion won, even if I have to pay taxes and take into account the price of the materials...'

Of the 450 items, not one legendary rated item was produced, but there were two unique rated items. However, he couldn't sell them to users and used them for the facilities. Lael encouraged the grumbling Grid.

"Don't dwell on the immediate damages. Thanks to the items you made, the efficiency of each work field has increased by several times, and will return to you as a bigger profit."

"I know."

Now it was time for lunch. Due to all the work, Grid ate at the smithy while discussing things with Huroi and Lael. On the other hand, Khan was busy teaching the young blacksmiths.

Lael clicked his tongue. "Khan is growing stronger every day. As I look at his increased health, I sometimes wonder if Reidan's desert sand really does improve longevity."

"That inspiration is innate. Which reminds me, has there been a steady increase in sales for the Longevity Remedy?"

"Yes, this month's sales has reached 1,230 gold."

"Still, it isn't even a quarter of Rabbit's pay."

Rabbit received a 500 gold salary as a viscount, then another 5,300 gold as his administrator salary. This was the 'minimum' value set by Rabbit himself. Even if he pledged his loyalty, he wouldn't work for less than 5,300 gold a month. It wasn't an exaggeration to say that Reidan's current deficit was due to Rabbit.

"But we shouldn't begrudge him. Sir Rabbit's value can't be converted to money."

"I know."

Thanks to Rabbit, Reidan was growing quickly. The increase of domestic affairs was unrivaled when compared to other cities. Indeed, a named NPC like Rabbit with an S-grade administrative skill was worth any price.

'Don't fret and look to the future.'

After Reidan developed, the giant worms would be destroyed and the western area would be restored. Then he would use the western area as the foundation for becoming king. It was one of his immediate goals.

'Then I will make money.'

Grid would become a tycoon. He didn't want to suffer again because he didn't have money.



Ttang!Ttang!

Grid ate the food that had been grown in three months, the rainbow potato. He hadn't been able to hunt for the past three months, so his level was stuck at 275, but he wasn't nervous because his stats increased every time he made an item higher than the epic rating.

Grid was a blacksmith, so he could level up his stats even if he worked in the smithy.

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The Butin Barony was at the eastern end of the Saharan Empire. It was a rural area, with only the natural view of the sea. Furthermore, it was a very peaceful place where monsters didn't pop up, so it was extremely rare for users to come here.

However, the 3rd ranking merchant, Muto, operated a small company and was extremely focused on trading with the Butin Barony. The Butin Barony might be empty of users, but it was a resort for rich NPCs and nobles.

"The Longevity Remedy?"

Muto was focused on supplying luxury goods to the rich and nobles who visited the Butin Barony. His sales rate had decreased suddenly, and he finally identified the reason. He looked at the small amount of sand in the glass bottle and frowned.

"This sand is sold as a luxury product under the name Longevity Remedy? The selling rate of my products is falling because of this?"

Muto had seen countless items. As a merchant, his insight was excellent, so it wasn't difficult for him to see that the Longevity Remedy was just simple sand.

"It's a really good idea."

Which merchant came up with the idea of marketing the sand of Reidan as the Longevity Remedy? Muto marveled after hearing about it from the NPCs of the Butin Barony.

"This level of business acumen is almost at the level of a scam."

There must be a tremendous merchant hiding in Reidan. Muto was sure of it. He worried about how he could compete with such a huge merchant and soon came up with an idea.

"Isn't there a huge desert surrounding Reidan?"

Ssik.

Muto smiled with satisfaction and immediately led his company to Reidan. But he faced difficulties as soon as he crossed the border.

"W-What is this?"

The guards of the Muto Company were over level 200. As mercenaries hired at an expensive price, they perfectly protected the company from monsters and bandits. But as soon as they entered the territory of Reidan, the giant worms, desert toads and other powerful monsters devoured the guards.

“T-This is crazy...!”

Why were the monsters so strong? The twin ogres were the strongest monsters he had seen so far, and they were nothing against the western monsters.

“R-Run away!”

The Muto Company had to run away from the crazy monsters. But Muto still didn't forget to put the sand from the desert into his bag.

“Pant pant! Damn! I almost got killed!”

Muto trembled as he barely survived and returned to the Butin Barony. He was desperate, since he lost half of the guards in the desert.

“I have to sell all of the sand to recoup some of the losses.”

Muto went to find a merchant NPC. Then he brought out the Longevity Remedy he made from the sands of Reidan. However, the NPC clicked his tongue.

"The Longevity Remedy is made from sand collected in the center of Reidan, not ordinary sand from the desert. We only acknowledge the sand from Reidan's lord as the Longevity Remedy, while everything else is rubbish. Let's stop any transactions in the future. I no longer want to work with a crook like you."

"..."

This was bad. He thought it would be easy. But his opponent had already penetrated into his brain. Muto was frustrated after losing many guards and clients because of mere sand.

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"Garlic." Shin Youngwoo logged out of Satisfy and went out into the living room for dinner. Then he found his parents peeling garlic and sat down beside them. "I'll help you."

Youngwoo's parents ran a vegetable store, and garlic was treated as a commodity. They had to work hard everyday to peel the garlic. In the past, he didn't help his parents, but now he was different.

He matured and was willing to help his parents. But his parents refused.

"Youngwoo, aren't you having a hard time playing the game? You should take this time to rest."

"Yes. This is our job. Youngwoo, you should go eat and focus on the game again."

His parents dismissed the game in the past, but now they recognized it as his workplace. Youngwoo felt a sense of gratitude and sat down with a bright smile.

"I want to help."

It wasn't easy for a person with less experience to peel garlic. The surface of garlic was hard and the skin was very thin. It needed some tricks to peel the skin attached to the surface. Youngwoo had no dexterity since he was a child. Until he joined the army, he couldn't even tie his shoelaces properly. It normally took Youngwoo a long time to peel one garlic, so he wouldn't be a big help.

Youngwoo's parents knew this fact, but they didn't stop him, since their son said he was willing to help. Then after a while.

"Oh my? Youngwoo, when did your dexterity become so good?"

His mother was full of admiration. Youngwoo quickly peeled the skin of the garlic like a pro. The speed was comparable to his parents, who had been running a vegetable store for decades. His father was also surprised.

"What's this?"

Youngwoo was even more amazed than his parents.

'Unbelievable. Why is it so much easier to peel garlic?'

He felt like his dexterity had increased dramatically, unlike the past. What was the reason? Youngwoo pondered over it as he peeled the garlic. Then he got the answer within minutes.

'It is the result of repetitive actions!'

A delicate hand was needed to make items. Since becoming Pagma's Descendant, Youngwoo had made thousands of items. It seemed that his dexterity in reality increased through his memories and this experience.

'I've seen it in the news before.'

A person repeatedly practiced swordsmanship Satisfy, and their skills increased in reality. It was the inevitable result of repetitive practice. Of course, a person's physical ability in reality was significant lower than it was in Satisfy, so it was impossible to implement all the techniques. However, following some techniques wasn't difficult.

It was the same reason why Youngwoo's dexterity rose now.

"Huhuhu..."

Youngwoo laughed with satisfaction. He was glad that if he ever obtained a lover in reality, he would be able to make her happy with his dexterity. It was the moment when the legendary hand dexterity that brought ecstasy to women in Satisfy appeared in reality.

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He helped his parents with the garlic and finished his meal. Then Youngwoo connected to his fan cafe and cheered.

"Finally...!"

Yesterday, the fan cafe had exactly 1,998,411 members, and now it exceeded two million. There was the golem invasion and he became the first user to become a duke, so his popularity had greatly increased.

'I'm happy.'

The fact that two million people were showing interest and liking towards him made Youngwoo's heart overwhelmed. He had been ignored and despised for a long time, so the affection of others was new and he felt happy every day.

'I wonder what Noe's fan cafe is like these days.'

After a long absence, Youngwoo accessed Noe's fan cafe and laughed.

"I can't catch up with his popularity."

Noe's fan cafe had reached 2.75 million members. The speed was rising much faster than Youngwoo's fan cafes. The difference between the two fan cafes was increasing day by day. In the past, Youngwoo would be trembling with jealousy, but now he was different. He completely shook off the inferiority complex that was deeply rooted in him and wasn't easily jealous anymore.

'Noe's rising popularity will increase awareness towards me, since I'm his owner.'

Youngwoo had been watching Lael for months, so even his thinking ability was improving. He thought positively and stopped writing bad comments on Noe's fan cafe.

"Grid doesn't know about Noe?"

It was the title of the day's most popular post. What was this nonsense? Noe was his pet. There was nothing he didn't know about Noe. He was the only one who knew about the stupid and simple personality hidden behind Noe's cute looks.

Youngwoo wondered how this speculative post became the most popular.

Title: Grid doesn't know about Noe?

Content: It has been a long time since Noe appeared in Reinhardt, making us cheer.

Noe's eyes that shine like jewels and the beauty that is enough to overpower our gaze. But he is 'still' strong. Noe was able to weaken the suddenly evolved ancient weapon by swallowing it, allowing Grid and the Overgeared Guild to win against the golem army.

Now I have a question. Originally, don't pets change shape and have a stronger presence as they level up? But Noe's appearance hasn't changed since the National Competition. In other words, it means that Noe's level isn't much different from the National Competition and Grid isn't nurturing him properly.

Think of it from Grid's perspective. As the first legendary class, he's a person with a very busy schedule. If you look at TV right now, his CFs play successively. As a top star, he has little time to play Satisfy.

Grid thought the words he read were absurd.

"Nonsense."

The CFs recently being aired were all filmed right after the National Competition. Currently, Grid had completely stopped all broadcasting activities. He was on Satisfy all the time except when eating and sleeping, and was struggling to manage Reidan.

However, the author of the post didn't know this and was just rattling off nonsense. Youngwoo felt frustrated as he read the rest of the post.

The fact that Grid has less time to play Satisfy means less time to raise Noe. So Noe's level hasn't changed since the National Competition. Then I can deduce that Grid has a very poor understanding of 'top-grade pets.'

Typical pets lost their loyalty to their owners and will return to the wild state if they are away from their owners for long periods of time. The owners of these pets usually put them in the inventory when they can't be with the pet for a long time (e.g. when logged out).

But what about drakes? As a 'top-grade pet,' its loyalty isn't easily lost, even when it has a long period of activity separate from its owner. This is why the owners of drakes can let them freely graze. A drake's owner often lets it hunt alone to raise their level and don't keep them in their inventory, even when they are logged out.

So let's point out the problem. Noe is better than a drake. The evidence is that he overwhelmed dozens of drakes alone and called himself the best demonic beast of hell. In other words, Noe should enjoy more freedom than a drake.

If Grid had given Noe freedom, then I'm sure his growth would be tremendous. However, Grid lacks understanding of pets and didn't give freedom to Noe, probably keeping Noe in his inventory.

Noe's growth became stagnant. This is proof of Grid's ignorance, and is an insult to the top-grade pets.

"Ah...!"

Youngwoo realized it as he read the post.

'I am really lacking understanding about pets.'

In the case of a common pet, the pet would hunt monsters with its master and the experience would be split between master and pet. This was why Youngwoo didn't raise Noe's level. Noe was very powerful even without raising his level, and Youngwoo didn't want to lose his experience to Noe.

'However, a top-grade pet can hunt independently from the owner and grow on their own?'

They didn't easily betray their owner.

'In the future, I should give Noe freedom so that he can grow.'

Noe hadn't eaten since the golem invasion. Apart from that one time, he was always in his inventory.

"...It must be frustrating."

Youngwoo was able to realize Noe's grievances. He felt sorry towards Noe. Then he thanked the author of the post for giving him new knowledge.

"He went too far."

At the same time, Youngwoo was also angry. In a community of 2.75 million members, it was too much to call someone ignorant just from mere deduction.

'I represent the Overgeared Guild.'

He couldn't ignore it because it was the same as insulting the Overgeared Guild. Youngwoo took immediate action.

God Grid isn't Bald's comment: Yes, next pet person please ^오^ I am an expert on all classes ~

The author of the post that Youngwoo read was a expert on pets. But in front of the keyboard warrior, he became a 'person who doesn't know about pets' and a 'non-expert.'

After that.

"Nyang! The best demonic beast of hell has emerged!"

Noe was still at level 35, despite destroying the ancient weapon.

"Is it time to eat? Nyang?"

Eyes filled with expectations looked at Grid, who commanded.

"From now on, you can move freely in the vicinity of Reidan. You can eat as many monsters as you like, but don't do anything that will harm humans. In addition, report to me if you see anything suspicious... Finally, fly to me whenever I call, no matter what you are doing. Don't forget that I am your only master."

"Nyong..."

Noe's eyes became wet. The '人' shape snout opened with excitement as he asked.

"Master is really giving Noe freedom...? Noe can go...? Believe in Noe! Nyang!"

"Yes, as long as you follow my rules."

"Thank you! Nyang! Master is the best! Nyang!"

The little demon wings flapped as Noe circled around Grid before flying high into the sky.

"Cat...?"

The people of Reidan were stunned as they saw a black cat flying in the sky. It was the historic day when Noe, who would be revered as the guardian of the Reidan people, appeared in front of them for the first time.

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Sehee and Yerim were stars among the high school population of South Korea. They were in the top 10 nationwide of the mock exams and also beauties, so they were the target of envy.

Recently, their popularity had skyrocketed. Before they were just stars of the high schools, but now they were stars of South Korea. Even foreigners recognized them. It was the aftermath of the golem invasion of Reinhardt that occurred around a month and a half ago in reality.

"Ruby!"

“Sexy Schoolgirl!”

The two girls who worked with Grid to save the Eternal Kingdom and became the first earls! People were enthusiastic every time they saw them.

"How did you join the Overgeared Guild?"

"What is God Grid like?"

"What is the secret to playing well while studying?"

“Why is your ID Sexy Schoolgirl...?”

Sehee and Yerim had to suffer from a barrage of questions. Various media also visited to request an interview. There were many companies who showed interest in them, causing a flood of CF model requests.

“Is this enough?”

It reached the point where it was impossible for Sehee and Yerim to go out without a disguise. After school ended. Before leaving the classroom, the two girls covered their faces as much as possible with masks and scarves. They mixed among the students and barely managed to leave the school.

Afterwards, the place they went to was a capsule room, not their homes or the library. They had a plan to play Satisfy three times a week and followed it.

Three hours later.

"Today was so much fun! Right?"

“Yes. I am now fully adapted to the new skills, so it’s fun to play.”

Sehee was now level 70 after the golem invasion. On the other hand, the Saintess’ Knight Yerim was still level 51 because she couldn’t raise her level during the golem invasion. However, it wasn’t a problem when the two girls played in a party.

The Saintess and Saintess’ Knight classes had great synergy. In addition, Youngwoo made items for them, so it was possible for them to hunt level 100 monsters when they joined forces. To borrow a phrase from Lael, they were ‘golden spoons’ who played the game to help Youngwoo after they raised their levels.

“It really is Ruby and Sexy Schoolgirl.”

There were university students who followed Sehee and Yerim after they left the capsule room. They had seen through Sehee and Yerim’s disguise.

“It isn’t even 10 p.m. yet, so why are you going home?”

"Let me buy you something delicious. We should become friendly, as we’re both Satisfy users.”

The four university students were all confident with their appearances. In fact, they were online shopping mall advertising models and were confident that pure high school girls would fall for them. But Yerim and Sehee weren’t people who only looked at appearance.

Sehee had a hatred for men other than her brother, while Yerim looked at money.

"Do you have a lot of money? We only eat expensive things."

Yerim gave a dazzling smile and provoked the university students. The university students felt their hearts thump before they shouted.

"Tell us what you want! We will buy you anything!"

"That's okay. In fact, someone is already buying us a meal."

"Are you talking about Grid?"

"That's right."

"..."

The eyes of the four university students sharply cooled. In fact, they were avid fans of Yura and Jishuka. But they had the scandal with Grid at the National Competition, turning the students into fierce anti-fans of Grid. They couldn't tolerate that Grid had already gobbled up the world's best beauties, Yura and Jishuka, and now he was monopolizing Sehee and Yerim as well.

"That bastard Grid..."

"Hey, both of you. You shouldn't hang out with that type of playboy. Throw away that trash guy and come play with us."

The university students became agitated after hearing Grid's name and forcibly grabbed Sehee and Yerim's wrists.

"Remove your hand."

A voice filled with anger was heard. It was a voice familiar to anyone in South Korea and the world.

"Oppa!"

"Grid...!"

That's right. It was Shin Youngwoo. After Sehee and Yerim became famous, Youngwoo was worried about their safety. Therefore, he took on the role of bringing them home every night. Today he came to pick them up, only to become furious as he saw this scene.

"Take your hands off them right now. Then I will overlook it this time."

Youngwoo held a phone in his hand and pressed 112. But at that time, his phone ran out of battery.

Beep.

It turned off with a loud noise.

"Ah, this, really..."

Why was this happening to him?

Chapter 224



Youngwoo's knowledge of human relationships was still limited. Youngwoo only used his phone to order delivery. He treated his phone as a decoration and didn't care about the battery life, leading to this situation.

'I'm screwed.'

Youngwoo was about to report the university students to the police, when he was shaken by the situation not turning out as planned. The four university students were aggressive towards him.

"Grid, isn't it hard to manage your estate?"

"Weren't you with Yura and Jishuka during the National Competition, so why are you free now?"

"I looked at your age on the Internet, so why are you trying to monopolize these girls as well? Do you want to be handcuffed for violating the law. Eh? Don't you know?"

The university students knew without a doubt that Youngwoo was older than them. They didn't even think about releasing the wrists of Sehee and Yerim.

'Those jerks.'

Youngwoo was angry when he heard the university students' tone of voice and his sister's pained expression. He wanted to run there and punch them in the jaw. But this was reality, not Satisfy.

In reality, Youngwoo was helpless. He had always been one-sidedly beaten by strong people. He had been beaten up many times, but now he wanted to commit violence against four healthy university students?

It was impossible.

First of all, Youngwoo looked around. It was to ask someone for help. Unfortunately, there was no one on the streets. It wasn't 10 p.m. yet, but it was fairly quiet. It was the result of Sehee and Yerim finding a empty place to avoid their popularity.

'This isn't ideal...'

Youngwoo took a deep breath. He suppressed his anger as much as possible and smiled.

"Let the kids go. Yes? We aren't shooting a drama, so this isn't interesting. Right?"

Youngwoo tried to persuade the university students. However, the university students didn't move at all.

"What if I don't want to?"

The university students couldn't tolerate that he was monopolizing all the pretty women. Taking Yura and Jishuka, now he was taking their future prospects? The infuriated university students started to handle Sehee and Yerim more roughly. They dragged them with force and provoked Youngwoo.

"These girls will play with us tonight. Anyway, what does it matter who we are? We're also people who make money from the game. It doesn't matter who you play with, as long as the man gives you money right?"

"Let go of me!"

Sehee struggled to shake off the university students. However, a female high school student was unable to win against the strength of men in their early 20's.

"Stay still!"

The university students grabbed Sehee harder instead of releasing her. Then they raised their hand like they would strike her.

"Won't you act more moderately?"

At that time, the silent Yerim frowned.

"These damn scum... Do you want to die?" Youngwoo's string of tension was snapped.

It didn't matter if he couldn't fight well. He couldn't stand to see his little sister insulted and treated like this.

'Even though I was a loser.'

When he was a highschool student. Youngwoo was always hit by Lee Junho for no reason. But he couldn't fight back because he was afraid of bigger retribution. He laughed it off, even if he didn't want to. He started to be ignored by the other students and this became a great trauma when he was an adult.

'It has been awhile since I've overcome it.'

Youngwoo was no longer a loser. He wouldn't give in to these thugs just because he was scared.

"What? You will kill us?"

"Puhahaha!"

The university students laughed at Youngwoo. In fact, Youngwoo's school days were famous on the Internet. Some of his classmates circulated Youngwoo's past onto the Internet after he became famous.

"This bastard can't distinguish between reality and a game."

"Hey Grid. This is reality, not Satisfy. Try and do Pagma's Swordsmanship here! Kill! It isn't possible. Then what is with this courage? Eh?"

The university students regarded Youngwoo as weak prey. Even Youngwoo himself didn't think he could fight against the university students. However, he couldn't retreat, so he just clenched his fists.

'It's shaky.'

A university student spat out his phlegm and approached. Youngwoo wondered if he could beat any of them. The Youngwoo of the past wouldn't have endured the pressure and run away. However, he improved his self-esteem through Satisfy and had the feeling of 'courage.'

'If I have to fight, I will fight.'

Fighting spirit rose in Youngwoo's eyes. In reality, he wasn't Satisfy's Grid, but he had his own pride.

"This damn bastard."

The university student became angry at the sight of Youngwoo and punched at him. The university student's fist was quick. He had no qualms about hitting a person. Youngwoo was surprised when he saw the flying punch.

'It's slow?'

Youngwoo had experienced numerous battles with strong opponents in Satisfy. Just like his dexterity, his vision in reality was also impacted. The university students hadn't learned martial arts, so they weren't a threat to Youngwoo.

Deftly.

Youngwoo succeeded in avoiding the fist with the university student with swift movements.

"What? He avoided it?"

The university student made an expression like it was ludicrous. Then he spat out his cigarette and kicked out. As a Korean citizen, he was taught Taekwondo during his childhood, so his kick contained more power and speed than his fist.

'If you concentrate more strength in your thighs and buttocks, then your upper body's forward speed will increase.'

The teachings of Piaro passed through Youngwoo's head. At the same time, Youngwoo's upper body moved forward. Then the kick of the university student flew above Youngwoo's head and hit the air. Youngwoo remembered the teachings of Piaro and felt something eerie as the kick passed above him.

'It isn't just the limbs. Mobilize the muscles of the throat to put weight on the end of the sword.'

Sword? He had swung it thousands of times. Controlling his muscles? He received a thorough education from Piaro. Youngwoo thought of his fingertips as a sword and swung them.

Peeok!

"...!"

The university student couldn't respond to the hand gesture that came from below him. He was hit in the chin and couldn't even scream before collapsing.

"...Eh?"

"W-What?"

The university students never imagined their friend being defeated and were shocked. Youngwoo was even more surprised than them.

'I won?'

He had hit a person for the first time since being born. He even knocked the person down. Before, he had always run away or was beaten up.

Duguen!Duguen!

Youngwoo's heart thudded at the whole new experience. The other university students rushed towards him.

"This jerk!"

A university student flew towards Youngwoo with all his strength. Youngwoo was still calm.

'It's sloppy.'

The orbit of the kick was very simple. Youngwoo took two steps back and swung his arm.

Chaaeng!

Youngwoo's hand accurately struck the university student's ankle.

"Ugh...!"

The time when he went to Cork Island to collect the fire stones. Youngwoo had flown there without a break, and was able to taste the pleasure of pushing his body to the limit. He wanted to taste this addictive sensation in reality and jogged with Sehee every morning, as well as going mountain climbing on the weekend. He also didn't forget simple weight training.

This had been repeated for three months. As a result, Youngwoo's body was disciplined compared to the weak bodies of the university students that were filled with alcohol and tobacco.

"I-It hurts..."

The university student that was struck by Youngwoo's hand shuddered at the pain. It was just like being hit by a metal pipe. It was natural. Youngwoo followed the teachings of a great swordsman, so he showed a power that ordinary people couldn't endure.

"T-This...!"

According to the rumors floating around the Internet, Youngwoo was a loser who was always beaten up. But he could actually fight well? The remaining two university students were shaken.

On the other hand, Youngwoo admired his own ability and wanted to fight some more. He wanted to enjoy this strength.

"What? You aren't coming?"

Youngwoo moved his finger and provoked them. The remaining two university students couldn't bear it anymore and moved.

"What is that triumphant air!?"

Pepeok!Peok!

The dog fight started. The university students randomly swung their fists and feet at Youngwoo. If two opponents struck at the same time, Youngwoo wouldn't be able to avoid it unless he was a martial artist.

Youngwoo responded to both attacks using the footwork he acquired from Pagma's Swordsmanship. He was like Bruce Lee as he moved like flowing water to evade the attacks from both people.

However, it was only for a moment. Youngwoo's body wasn't tempered enough to keep up these actions. His health was at the level of the general public. He couldn't reproduce Pagma's Swordsmanship forever. There came a time when he stepped wrongly, twisting his feet and causing his posture to collapse.

"Hahat! This jerk is a fool!"

Youngwoo was indiscriminately attacked by the university students who laughed at him.

"Ugh! Eek!"

Bam bam bam!

Youngwoo felt like he could see the illusion of stars flashing in front of his eyes. But in the meantime, Sehee and Yerim were freed.

"Run away!"

Youngwoo swallowed down the words to call the police quickly. Even if he didn't say it, he believed that they would report it to the police station.

At that moment.

"That is enough."

Unlike Sehee, who was screaming and wondering what to do, Yerim jumped lightly. Youngwoo was attracted by her white and smooth legs as she kicked the university students.

Pakak!

Despite wearing a short skirt, Yerim's kick perfectly struck the backs of the university students.

"Cough..."

"Ugh!"

Youngwoo suspected that they might've died. The university students exposed the whites of their eyes as they fainted.

'What? Why is she so strong?'

Yerim reached out a hand to the stunned Youngwoo.

"Can you rise? My prince."

Yerim looked very beautiful under the streetlights. She had a mature appearance that made it hard to believe she was a high school student, and her half moon eyes were sure to fascinate anyone.

But she was a minor, so Youngwoo didn't consider her that way.

After that.

“What? 3rd dan Taekwondo? Hey, then why were you just watching? It’s really too much.”

In front of a convenience store.

Sehee and Yerim were rubbing eggs on Youngwoo’s bruised face. Youngwoo was surrounded by two pretty girls, so he looked like a harem king from a manhwa. But Youngwoo didn’t care about other people’s gazes.

He was busy grumbling.

“If Yerim had fought from the beginning, Oppa wouldn’t look like this.”

“It’s rude to interfere in a fight between men, so I endured it.”

“It wasn’t a fight between men... It was one against four.”

"Hihi, anyway, it was great.”

Youngwoo was strong like a normal person. He might not be really strong, but his courage to protect his sister deserved praise. Today, Yerim’s crush on Youngwoo became much bigger. She really wanted to marry Youngwoo.

“Urgh... Then let’s go back. And from now on, both of you are banned from going to a capsule room. I will buy both of you capsules. Yes? Eh?”

Youngwoo tried to get up from the chair he was sitting on. But his muscles were sore from the aftermath of the fight and being hit. Yerim grabbed Youngwoo to stop him from falling sideways.

“Haah.” Yerim let out a strange sound. It was because Youngwoo’s fingers had moved from her underarm to her waist.

“W-What?”

Youngwoo became surprised by the sound while Yerim blushed and her eyes became moist.

“...Oppa is a really great person.”

What did that mean? Sehee didn’t know the meaning, but Youngwoo understood it properly. He cleared his throat from the embarrassment.

Chapter 225

“Finally! Finally level 300!”

It had been four months since the Overgeared Guild moved to Reidan. Toban was the last member of the former Tzedakah Guild to reach level 300. The powerful monsters of the west stimulated their growth.

“There will be a cataclysm in the unified rankings.”

“Cataclysm?”

"The top seven have firmly maintained their rankings but... I can safely say that most of the top 40 rankings are dominated by the Overgeared members.”

"Why is that a cataclysm? It isn't anything special."

Originally, all of the Tzedakah Guild members were ranked in the top 50. The average ranking had only risen by 10, so Grid thought it wasn't that big of a deal.

'It is rather strange that no one has entered the top seven, despite the items I made.'

Grid might be disappointed, but the world was astonished. The top 100 rankings didn't fluctuate easily, so the present growth rate of the Overgeared members was unprecedented. Media companies around the world wondered 'What secrets are hidden in Reidan that can allow them to grow so quickly?'

『 The reporters have failed to enter the west. 』

『 In the western part of the Eternal Kingdom, there are monsters that have never been seen before. Experts speculate that only a party of at least level 280 users or rankers can enter... 』

『 It seems like the Overgeared members are raising their level quickly by hunting the powerful monsters in the west. 』

『 Um... The monsters in the west will be a double-edged sword to the Overgeared Guild. The level up speed of the Overgeared members has risen exponentially, but there are few users who can move to Reidan due to the high entry barriers. 』

『 That's right. Reidan's speed of development will be slow. Duke Grid will definitely be hurt. 』

Ttang!Ttang!

There was the constant sound of hammering from the large smithy in Reidan. The 30 young blacksmiths taught by Khan were constantly producing the supplies that Reidan needed.

'I'm tired.'

Grid was still busy despite the manpower increasing. After their third advancement class, the Overgeared members commissioned more powerful items, so he needed to continue making items.

'But this damn hammering will be over soon.'

He only had five commissions left. Grid was free after he made those five items.

'Let's plan for the future.'

Grid had personal challenges. The first was to complete his class quest, the second was to recover all the pavranium, and the third was to complete Piaro's quest. His work as a lord? He had the incomparably clever Lauel and Rabbit to take care of it, so there were no problems.

"You over there."

Grid stopped hammering and called out to a soldier guarding the entrance of the smithy.

"Did you call?"

The soldier ran over with tight discipline.

'The great duke called me!'

The soldier's eyes shone like lanterns as Grid ordered. "Bring Minor here."

"Yes!"

After 30 minutes.

"Oh, what do you want?"

A boy with a disgruntled expression came to the smithy. Despite possessing the talents of a great miner, he was fostered as a 'minerals detector' because he possessed the skill 'Minerals Master (S+).

"I will give you an escort to search for the presence of the golem's labyrinths here in the west."

"It isn't an escort, but surveillance."

"Someday, I will give you freedom if you swear true allegiance to me."

"...Well, I do acknowledge you these days. You're a commoner who became a duke. But I'm still wondering if a genius like me should devote the rest of my life to you."

Minor possessed the skill 'Talent will Reveal Itself (SS).' His talent would always be clear to others, so he was destined to receive a lot of temptations in life. He was arrogant and would easily betray a person, so his loyalty wasn't guaranteed.

"Is it lacking to be the subordinate of a duke?"

"Indeed. At a minimum, shouldn't it be a king?"

"Hoh... You should remember that."

Grid would surely become a king and would obtain him. Grid pledged as he waved his hands.

"Go now."

"Yes, yes."

Minor gave an insincere answer. But Grid knew better than anyone that he would work properly.

'The problem if searching for pavranium in the west is resolved...'

The only things left were the class quest and Piaro's revenge quest. However, he couldn't proceed with his class quest right now. It was impossible for Grid to get God Yatan to bless the pavranium.

'Even Yura doesn't know where the First Servant of the Yatan Church is... First, I should resolve Piaro's grudge.'

The cause of Piaro's heart sickness, Asmophel. If Grid defeated the former vice-captain of the Red Knights, Piaro could be freed from these chains.

'Once he is in a perfect condition, he might become my subordinate...'

The hopeful Grid continued making items.



Then five items later.

Grid completely all the items for the guild members and used the skill the Legendary Blacksmith's Creation.

[Legendary Blacksmith's Creation Skill]

You can create three equipment item production methods every time the skill level of the 'Legendary Blacksmith's Craftsmanship Skill' goes up.

Number of items that can be created at present: 12/15.

\* When items are produced using this skill, the name of the creator is automatically placed on the item.

Then the familiar notification windows started to emerge.

[What item do you want to create?]

"Heavy boots."

[Have you decided on 'Heavy Boots?']

"Yes."

[What materials would you like to use?]

"Um..."

He shouldn't use only high grade minerals such as black iron, mithril and blue orichalcum as materials. The reason Grid wanted to make heavy boots was because he wanted weight. According to Piaro's advice, the heavier the shoes worn, the greater the power of the greatsword.

"The main material will be steel. I will mix blue orichalcum into it to add strength and hardness, and to make it exert more power in dark places. Ah, I have to make the color darker by mixing in black iron so that it will harmonize with my armor."

[Have you decided?]

"Yes."

[Please design the item.]

Grid was a lot more smart and skillful compared to when he first created Failure. He perfectly drew the shape of the boots he wanted on the blank blueprint in front of him.

"It's done."

Over the past four months, he made more than 600 items and his dexterity stat exceeded 3,000 points. Thanks to that, Grid was able to draw a delicate image and the shape of the boots was completed in a practical and excellent manner. They were big, black boots that came up to just below the knees. They had a rustic type of beauty.

[Have you decided? When you complete the blueprint, the number of available creation skill will decrease by one.]

Grid clicked the button without hesitation. Then the shape of the boots was corrected by the system to make it look more perfect.

[Please describe the characteristics of the item.]

"Heavy and solid boots. Thanks to the nature of blue orichalcum, the defense will increase in dark places."

It was a simple, but accurate description. Based on Grid's description, the system started distributing the performance and options of the item.

[Finally, please decide the name of the item.]

From now on, all the items he created would proudly boast of the legendary blacksmith who created them. Grid replied in a proud voice, "Grid's Boots."

[Have you decided on 'Grid's Boots?']

"Yes."

Grid planned to attach his name to every item he designed in the future.

'I will aim to complete a set item based on these boots.'

[A new item, 'Grid's Boots' have been created.]

[Grid's Boots]

Rating: Epic ~ Legendary

Epic Rating Information:

Durability: 335/335 Defense: 324

Movement Speed: -12%

Evasion Rate: -14%

\* Increases defense by 10% against attacks from the bottom.

\* When using a dashing skill, there is a 30% chance of failure.

\* Defense will increase by 10% in dark places.

Unique Rating Information:

Durability: 401/401 Defense: 388

Movement Speed: -10%

Evasion Rate: -12%

\* Increases defense by 12% against attacks from the bottom.

\* When using a dashing skill, there is a 25% chance of failure.

\* Defense will increase by 15% in dark places.

Legendary Rating Information:

Durability: 496/496 Defense: 470

Movement Speed: -8%

Evasion Rate: -10%

\* Increases defense by 15% against attacks from the bottom.

\* When using a dashing skill, there is a 20% chance of failure.

\* Defense will increase by 20% in dark places.

An item designed by a legendary blacksmith. Designed with a perfect combination of steel, black iron and blue orichalcum, it boasts overwhelming defense. However, there are many disadvantages to its function because it is only focused on defense.

In particular, it is too heavy, so movement is restricted.

User Restriction: Level 320 or higher. More than 1,450 strength. More than 1,200 stamina. Advanced Heavy Armor Mastery Level 5 or higher.

Weight: 2,930

The effectiveness was very low compared to Braham's Boots. It could be considered to be boots designed specifically for tankier classes, rather than damage dealers who relied on charging techniques. However, the defense was nearly twice as strong as armor of the same class. The defense was unusually high for boots, considering that boots had a quarter of the defense of armor.

'This is perfect for me.'

In the first place, Grid didn't have an evasive type of fighting style. He favored swinging the sword. It wasn't just a matter of control, but a style unique to the greatsword. Furthermore, Grid had no charging skills.

'The boots won't have any negative effect on me, except for a reduction in movement speed. These boots will also suit Vantner and Toban.'

Grid was satisfied with the finished creation. He dreamed that one day, both him and the Overgeared members would be armed with a 'Grid set,' and started to make an item for himself.

Ttang!Ttang!

"Ohh...!"

The skills of a legendary blacksmith were constantly studied by 30 young blacksmiths and Khan, so the future was bright.

\*\*\*

It had been a year since the fall of Pope Drevigo. Who would become the new pope after Drevigo? Numerous senior priests ran as pope candidates. Most of them were good priests and had a sense of mission to lead 70 million people to the path of light.

However, a small number of them wanted to be the pope to satisfy their individual needs. In particular, Pascal of the Judar Church was very ambitious.

“What if I became the master of 70 million people? The momentum of our family will pierce the sky and Father will surely become a duke.”

Pascal’s father was an earl of the Saharan Empire. Originally Pascal was a viscount, but he joined the church and became the leader of the Judar Church. Now he was looking at a higher place.

“I understand. Pascal, I will help you become the pope.”

The largest religion on the continent was on the verge of falling into the hands of the empire. At this time, the 70 million people who followed Goddess Rebecca’s teachings might become a political tool of the empire.

"Isabel-chan!"

The first unique hidden class, Damian, was trembling with sorrow. It was because Isabel’s life was sharply decreasing after the unsealing of Lifael’s Spear.

Chapter 226

White Transformation referred to the technique of borrowing the goddess’ power stored in the three divine artifacts of the Rebecca Church. It was a technique that allowed a person to borrow power that exceeded the human body. However, this power placed a heavy burden on the body.

Rebecca’s Daughters refrained from using White Transformation as much as possible, and shortened the duration when they inevitably had to use it. But Isabel had been in the White Transformation state for the past year.

It was because Grid unsealed Lifael’s Spear. Her life energy was rapidly becoming depleted.

“Cough! Cough!”

Her platinum hair had turned grey. Her shining eyes were faded like she was dead, and her normally flushed cheeks were pale. Nevertheless, she still looked beautiful.

‘Right now she is only 18 years old...’

She was about to die at this age.

Damian looked at Isabel out of habit and finally started crying. “How many times have I told you? I said that Lifael’s Spear must be sealed! Then why... Why aren’t you listening to me? Huh...? Isabel-chan, are the orders so important? More than your life?”

“Cough! Cough!”

Isabel lying in bed didn't answer. She was staring at the distant sky out the window and her hearing had long been lost. She didn't even hear Damian's voice shouting right beside her.

"Isabel-chan..."

Damian's handsome face twisted. His face was streaked with tears and a runny nose, so someone laughed at him.

"Why are you empathizing with tools?"

It was Pascal. He entered Isabel's room without knocking, causing Damian to tremble.

"You...! How many times have I warned you not to describe them as tools?"

Damian hated Pascal.

The 5th Pope Franz felt a moment of compassion and sealed the divine artifacts of the church, leading to the weakening of the church. This was the logic used to convince the church that Lifael's Spear shouldn't be sealed again.

The person who spoke it was Pascal.

Pascal just shrugged. "Rebecca's Daughters are fostered to serve this church in exchange for their lives. Don't get caught up in useless sympathy and think about what is needed to keep the church. You are just damaging yourself."

As his descendant, Pascal respected 5th Pope Franz. However, he couldn't understand all of Franz' policies. From the beginning, weren't Rebecca's Daughters people brought up as tools? Sealing the power of the divine artifacts just because they couldn't endure it?

It was preposterous. An ignorant mistake. Pascal and most of the senior priests of the Rebecca Church thought this way. They planned to contact Pagma's Descendant so that he could release the seals of the two remaining artifacts as soon as possible.

But Damian couldn't tolerate it.

"I will never accept it."

Rebecca's paladins were much weaker than the Judar and Dominion paladins, so it wasn't a popular class. However, Damian walked this path to the end without giving up just because of Rebecca's Daughters.

Isabel, Rin, Luna. Damian longed for these three girls to always be happy. He wished for them to smile forever. He couldn't stand them suffering.

"They are people like us. And they have worked harder for this church than anyone else. To disparage them and call them mere tools... Goddess Rebecca won't forgive it."

"You dare mention Goddess Rebecca? You are deceived by the beautiful appearance of the tools and lost control. Stupid."

Pascal laughed at Damian. It was similar to those who ridiculed Damian in reality for running a fancafe of Rebecca's Daughters.

Damian couldn't understand them. "...Why do you have to ridicule someone's love and respect?"

"The problem is that the target is a tool, not a person."

"Isn't this just like people in reality saying that Rebecca's Daughters are NPCs, not humans...?"

"Reality? NPC? I can't understand the language you are using."

"Shut up!"

"..."

Pascal was the former leader of the Judar Church and a pope candidate, so he had mighty divine power. Rebecca's Daughters were the only ones in the church with higher divine power than him.

However, at this moment.

"They are people too! They rejoice in every moment! They are impressed! Angry! Sad! They are the same as us! Not tools or NPCs! Don't compare them to such things!"

The divine power that Damian emitted was threatening. It was a threat to Pascal, who was likely to become the pope after Drevigo.

'This is the power of the Goddess' Agent...!'

Pascal had always ignored Damian, who usually chased after Rebecca's Daughters. He had laughed when he heard some priests talk about trying to put Damian as pope, but now he was wary of Damian.

The upset Damian proclaimed to him. "I will change everything! I will root out all the rotten people, including you, who treat Rebecca's Daughters as sub-human beings! For Isabel-chan and Rin-chan! And for the sake of Luna-chan!"

Damian accepted the quest that he put on hold.

"I...! I will become the pope!"

[The quest 'Become the Pope' has been accepted.]

[Become the Pope]

Difficulty Level: SS

It has been one year since the death of 13th Pope Drevigo.

The Rebecca Church has barely recovered from the confusion and is now preparing to elect a new pope. However, Pascal is now the most powerful pope candidate and he plans to use the Rebecca Church as a political tool.

As the agent of the goddess, you have an obligation to guide the Rebecca Church to the right path and to stop Pascal's ambitions. Your power, beliefs and willpower will play a major role in defeating irrational violence and calming political strife.

After your crowning, you can never disobey Goddess Rebecca.

The faithful church members will cheer for you.

Quest Clear Conditions: In three months, become the pope in the pope's election.

Quest Clear Rewards: Second class 'Pope' will be obtained. 'Goddess Rebecca's Armor,' 'Goddess Rebecca's Helmet,' and 'Goddess Rebecca's Gloves' will be acquired.

Quest Failure: Pascal will become the pope. The Rebecca Church will decline even worse than the days of Drevigo.

"You will become the pope?"

Pascal was angry. He'd already bought more than half of the votes. This declaration had no foundation to succeed.

"Well, good. As the Goddess' Agent, you are qualified to be a pope candidate. I respect you."

Thump thump.

Pascal nodded before heading over to Isabel's bed. Isabel looked at him and he gave her an order.

"A Yatan Temple was found in Kent Village on the outskirts of the empire. Show them the divine power of the spear. Ah, can you hear me? This is the command. Read this and act accordingly."

The user of Lifael's Spear always had White Transformation triggered. Naturally, the work had to be done fast, so the elders assigned Isabel more duties than the other two Rebecca's Daughters. As a result, Isabel's life energy was depleting more quickly, but the elders didn't care. They were already preparing substitutes in large quantities.

"I will go." Damian intercepted the command. "I will take on all the duties that she will perform in the future."

Pascal rejected it. "Didn't I say it before? Are you making fun of the elders' commands? As you know, the pope's seat is currently empty so they are working on his behalf. Violating their orders is like going against the pope..."

"I am the Goddess' Agent." Damian responded strongly to Pascal, who tried to repeat an explanation that Damian had heard several times already. "As you said, the elders aren't the pope."

"..."

"I don't want to hear anymore about the elders' orders. Only the true pope and Goddess Rebecca can command me."

Damian's words sounded good, but he had a weak base. The senior priests didn't treat Damian as important and ignored his opinions. But now Damian made his position clear, so Pascal couldn't help feeling dumbfounded.

"Hrmm..."

Pascal tried to think.

'If this guy is busy on the battlefield, he will be less likely to win the pope's election held in three months.'

Damian wasn't competition in the first place, but it would be a good idea to clear the path.

Pascal nodded. "Go ahead. But I doubt that you will be able to perform the difficult missions with your abilities."

"I am strong."

He had a unique hidden class. Now Damian was different from the past. He was no longer the extra who just watched while Grid fought Drevigo. Damian was also a protagonist.

"Kukuk, good. Prepare your heart. If you become tired and fall down, Isabel will take on the missions again."

Then Pascal left the room. Damian cursed him and planned for the future.

'The mission is in the east of the empire. It is relatively close to the western part of the Eternal Kingdom.' Reidan was located in the west of the Eternal Kingdom. 'I will stop by to meet him.'

The person who went against Pope Drevigo and saved Rebecca's Daughters. He helped Damian become the Goddess' Agent. Also...

'The only one who can seal Lifael's Spear.'

Pagma's Descendant, Grid. He was the only person Damian could rely on.

"Damian..."

Isabel called out to Damian who was about to leave. Damian took a deep breath. His expression that was distorted with rage gradually softened to a smile.

"I am going, Isabel-chan. Please stay well."

Damian said goodbye to her with a smile.

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[The experience of (Witness of God's Weapon) Legendary Blacksmith's Craftsmanship Skill Lv. 5 has increased by 19%.]

[A unique rated item was produced, increasing all stats by +4.]

[Reputation throughout the continent will rise by +150.]

[You currently have 25,110 reputation throughout the continent. You can use the Reputation Store when your reputation reaches over 30,000.]

"It's good."

Grid was very satisfied as he checked the result.

Chapter 227



[Grid's Boots]

Rating: Unique

Durability: 477/477 Defense: 483

Movement Speed: -10%

Evasion Rate: -7%

\* Increases defense by 12% against attacks from the bottom.

\* When using a dashing skill, there is a 25% chance of failure.

\* Defense will increase by 15% in dark places.

Weight: 1,930

"Good, good. It wasn't an epic rating."

In the past four months, Grid had produced over 630 items, but he hadn't produced one legendary item. However, he produced five unique rated items, so he was very pleased.

'Five unique items out of 630 items... It's so rare that I was lucky. And honestly, I am reluctant to make any more legendary items.'

Grid had made eight legendary items after becoming Pagma's Descendant. If he produced two more, a 'special event' was likely to occur that would make him feel sick. He would rather make unique items.

'The unique rated items aren't greatly lacking compared to legendary items.'

The 30 young blacksmiths approached Grid who was grinning with satisfaction. They admired Grid's Boots.

"Duke Grid, this is a work of art!"

"The degree of completion can't be described in words!"

"Such elegance hidden inside a primitive design...! It truly is high quality!"

It was practically impossible for inferior blacksmiths to understand the work of the legendary blacksmith Grid. They just felt like it was great. But unlike their current appearance, their potential for development was enormous.

Grid had searched the 20,000 people of Reidan and selected those with excellent qualities, then Khan taught them. The ability of Grid and Khan to closely observe their skills exceeded common sense.

'At least eight of them are going to become advanced blacksmiths. I will raise new blacksmiths around them.'

They were people who might've become advanced blacksmiths in another city. Grid had the Blacksmith's Affection skill, so he wasn't exaggerating.

[Blacksmith's Affection]

Appreciation of the NPC, which is the maximum skill level of the blacksmith, a minimum of 1 and a maximum of up to 5 randomly.

The blacksmith who received your teachings will be loyal to you for life and will share with you every time they learn new item production methods.

'Anyway, next is the enhancement...'

Grid had a passive skill that 'increased the probability of item enhancement.' He enhanced Dainsleif to +8 and Failure to +9, so Grid wanted to try strengthening these boots to at least +8.

'I'm aiming to use the Grid set for a long time, so I want to try enhancement...'

To do this, he needed enhancement stones. But the price of the enhancement stones was rising. At the present time, the price of a general enhancement stone was 180 gold and a blessed enhancement stone was 2,500 gold. Given his previous experience and the current price of the enhancement stones, he would need at least 500,000 gold to enhance one piece of equipment to +8.

'Dammit, why does the price of the enhancement stones keep climbing? In the old days, the price of the enhancement stones were 100 gold and the blessed enhancement stones were 1,200 gold.'

It was because the overall level of the users had risen. The higher the level, the longer it took to get out of that level section. Therefore, users felt the need to enhance their current items. As demand grew, the price of the enhancement stones also grew. There was no reason for the price of the enhancement stones to go down, unless the S.A. Group significantly increased the drop rate.

However, the S.A. Group wasn't able to raise the drop rate of the enhancement stones. In order to maintain game service for a long time, the minimum requirement was to avoid gold inflation.

However, Grid couldn't think of such complex things. He just lamented and sighed.

"Huh?"

Grid suddenly became confused. It was because the 30 blacksmiths admiring Grid's Boots were now depressed.

"What's wrong?" Grid questioned and the blacksmiths started explaining.

"Lael commanded us to produce boots and gauntlets to supply the soldiers. We're working hard on the boots and gauntlets, but..."

"After seeing Duke Grid's work, the boots and gauntlets that we produced are too insignificant."

"We know that it isn't possible to make items at the same level as Duke Grid, but can you teach us so that we can at least mimic it?"

Khan had already passed on the boots production method to them. However, they were hoping for Grid to teach them instead of Khan.

'I feel sorry...'

Grid watched Khan. But Khan just smiled.

"I don't mind. Their desire to learn from you is very natural."

A legendary blacksmith was on a different dimension from an advanced blacksmith. Khan knew this better than anyone. Grid saw his heart and nodded. Then he started smelting four pieces of iron ore in front of the 30 blacksmiths.

"It is very simple to make boots. Watch and learn."

"Yes!"

'I can receive the teachings of the great Duke Grid!'

The 30 blacksmiths' eyes shone as they watched Grid. Grid made the boots while adding brief explanations, then...

[The experience of the Legendary Blacksmith's Breath Skill Lv. 4 has increased by 9%.]

[The experience of (Witness of God's Weapon) Legendary Blacksmith's Craftsmanship Skill Lv. 5 has increased by 19%.]

[When legendary rated items are produced, all stats will permanently rise by +10.]

[Reputation throughout the continent will rise by +500.]

"..."

Grid made legendary rated level 80 steel boots, shortening the time to the 'special event.'

"Wah! Really amazing boots!"

"You can easily produce such a great piece!"

"Indeed, Duke Grid is a legend!"

"Damn..."

Grid shed tears. If Grid's Boots were made with the legendary rating, he wouldn't have felt so bad. Now one more legendary item remained until the special event happened.

"Hah..."

Grid could only sigh as he left the smithy. He couldn't let go of his unhappiness at completing boots for a soldier with a legendary rating.

"Sigh..."

Trudge trudge.

He had no strength in his steps. Grid staggered like a man who had lost his country. The people who saw him started to worry.

"Duke Grid is always proud and dignified, yet now he is having a hard time..."

"Surely a crisis isn't approaching Reidan?"

“Maybe it’s a large monster invasion...?”

Originally, it was a law that bad rumors spread faster. The security rating that was maintained at a stable figure thanks to Jude and the soldier’s efforts dropped dramatically. Jude and the Overgeared members were confused when they found out that the cause was Grid, but Grid didn’t even know about it.

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Reidan Castle.

‘According to Piaro, Asmophel’s escorts are very strong...’

Grid was unable to abandon enhancing the boots and searched the guild’s warehouse. He hoped to find enhancement stones inside. However, the guild’s warehouse only had a few minerals and sylphid scales that were supplied by Jishuka in Bairan.

"In the end, I’ll have to buy them."

Grid checked his inventory. He currently had 20,000 gold. It was the money he acquired from disposing of the loot dropped by monsters that he hunted on the way here. What about the 5.5 million gold acquired from the golem invasion? Five million gold was used as the guild’s funds, while the remaining 500,000 was converted to Korean money.

Grid currently didn’t have enough money.

“With this much money, I can only enhance it to +5 if I’m lucky.”

More money was needed. Grid went to his private warehouse. But there wasn’t a single item in his warehouse that was worth money. A few months ago, he disposed of most of his items to acquire the money for his land and building in reality.

“Shit...”

He was a duke! Why did he have to be the owner of a big city?

“Huh?”

Grid was grumbling that Reidan was a poor city when he suddenly found an item in a corner of the warehouse. It was a glass bottle the size of his little finger. There was golden liquid in the glass bottle.

‘Maybe this will make me some money?’

[Goddess’ Essence]

Weight: 0.1

It was an item he acquired from the Pope Drevigo raid. However, even the Legendary Blacksmith’s Appraisal skill didn’t have an explanation, so he didn’t know where to use it.

‘The pope wouldn’t drop a cheap item...’

Pope Drevigo was the one who dropped the Holy Light Battle Gear, which was the strongest armor set. Grid thought that the Goddess’ Essence dropped by Drevigo was bound to have considerable value. But

it was just a vague expectation. It was difficult to gauge the value because he didn't know where to use it.

'What should I do? Ah!'

It was a mysterious item that couldn't be determined with the eyes of a blacksmith. Then a well-informed person was needed to figure out the identity. And he had such a person nearby.

It was Rabbit.

'He has handled many goods, so won't he be able to recognize the value of this?'

Please let it be a valuable item, as he expected. Grid eagerly looked for Rabbit.

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Rabbit's office had documents stacked up like a mountain.

"I don't know." Rabbit observed the Goddess' Essence a few times before giving up.

Grid panicked at the unexpected result. "There's something you can't grasp with your insight?"

"I know that is liquid that contains the divine power of Goddess Rebecca. But it is hard to tell what the effect will be."

"It can't be sold?"

"Be cautious." The always calm Rabbit raised his voice. "This liquid contains the divine power of Goddess Rebecca. You will regret it someday if you decide to sell it. You should treasure it for now."

"I need a quick source of money."

"Why?"

"I need enhancement stones."

"Enhancement stones..."

Rabbit unfolded a gigantic map of the western part of the kingdom. During the past four months, the Overgeared members had adventured and completed this map.

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Everything on the map seemed to have a smaller scale. Reidan, marked in the middle of the map, was only the size of a 500 won coin.

'500 won... A large city that can accommodate 430,000 people is only the size of a 500 won coin...'

It showed how big the west truly was.

The Eternal Kingdom was divided into four regions: the east, west, north and south. However, the size of the four regions wasn't constant. The west was the largest, followed by the north, east and south.

But this large territory suddenly became a desert. What if he destroyed the giant worms and restored the west? Grid was the next in line to the main power in the north of the Eternal Kingdom. He would be able to establish a unique position.

"Look here." Rabbit pointed to one side of the map. It was the Hebend River that penetrated through Reidan. "As you can see, the villages and cities are concentrated on the southern basin of the Hebend River."

Were there survivors in those places? But that didn't matter.

"What is the reason?"

"...?"

Grid was surprised by Rabbit's sudden question.

'Why are the cities and villages concentrated there? Why is he asking me this? How should I know?'

The Grid of the past would've expressed his disgruntled thoughts. However, the current Grid was eager to improve his thinking abilities.

"Umm..."

He used his lacking brain to think again. As a result, he barely found an answer. "Is it because of water?"

People needed water to live. It was a simple reason and answer. But it was wrong.

"You're wrong. Isn't it also easy to secure water from the north basin? The reason why the population was concentrated on the southern basin in the past was because there was something to attract people there, besides water."

"What does that mean?"

"It's the mines. As you can see, there's a small mountain range, so it's geographically possible."

"Mines?"

This was good news. It didn't matter if it was iron ore, silver or gold. Securing any resources, whether large or small, would unconditionally benefit them. It was good news for Reidan. However.

"I'm glad to hear it, but why are you suddenly talking about mines? It's just mines. You can take care of it with Lael. Right now, I need enhancement stones. How did the conversation switch to this?"

'Indeed... There is this type of response when hearing about the possibility of mines.'

Rabbit realized it clearly. Grid was different from a common lord. He had little interest in his role as a lord.

'He only devoted himself to working in the smithy for the past four months.' Some people might blame Grid for being irresponsible. But Rabbit thought about it positively. 'The duke is right. He might be the best blacksmith and warrior, but he is lacking in knowledge. It's better for him to stay away from the administration side.'

Despite their lack of political power, there were lords who forcefully tried to control their politics. On the other hand, Grid chose to rely on competent subordinates because he recognized his own deficiencies. He was the ideal lord who knew the limits of what he could do.

'He is truly wise and wonderful.'

Grid was different from the stupid leader of the Mero Company that Rabbit served in the past.

Rabbit continued the explanation. "The Overgeared members have explored the southern basin to see if there really are mines. But there was a strong boss monster, so the Overgeared members abandoned the exploration and classified it as a danger zone."

"Which of the Overgeared members went?"

"All of them."

"What?"

The Overgeared Guild was strong. They were all rankers in the top 40. But despite them acting together, there was a boss monster powerful enough to make them retreat?

'Is it at the level of the complete Hell Gao?' Even Grid wasn't an opponent for the complete version of Hell Gao. He barely managed to defeat Hell Gao after weakening him by taking two fire stones. 'The current Overgeared members are much stronger...'

Regas was the first member of the Overgeared Guild to obtain his third advancement class. He chose the Asura class. It was a fighting demon that suited his personality. Then Regas went straight to Grid and asked for a duel. It was revenge for losing in the finals of the PvP match. As a result, Grid won.

'I almost had to use my invincible passive.'

It was a shame, because the duel was after his training period with Piaro. After reaching the third advancement class, Regas was much stronger than before. It was the same for the other Overgeared members. But there was a boss monster in the west that they couldn't defeat?

'It is a terrible place.'

Grid clicked his tongue and prompted.

"So? What does that have to do with the enhancement stones?"

"Did you hear the explanation about why I invested more than half of the guild funds into the alchemy institutes?"

"I heard from Lauel. Isn't the effect of alchemy amazing? It can make various buff potions, as well as assign special options to items."

"There are many other things that alchemy can do. But most cities avoid investing in alchemy. It is to the point that even the richest cities that represent a kingdom are reluctant concerning alchemy."

"Why?"

"Because it isn't certain."

The effects of items made with alchemy weren't constant, but often random. Furthermore, the success rate of alchemy itself was extremely low. For example, even if the alchemy institute had the highest level, the probability of producing buff potions is less than 70%, and the probability of successfully giving an option to an item was less than 30%.

In addition, the prices of the materials needed for alchemy were too high. In conclusion, alchemy was a bad investment.

Grid frowned at the explanation. "What is this? Isn't it complete rubbish?"

2,937,000 gold out of the five million guild funds had been invested in alchemy. Grid felt like he had been hit in the back of his head.

'This man is determined to destroy me!'

Rabbit saw Grid's expression and explained. "I plan to develop Reidan into the second Talima."

"Talima? The dwarf city?"

"That's correct."

The dwarf city Talima was called the city of heaven. Regardless of the rating, it was said that battle gear with a special performance were widely distributed. Even a small store would have a solid piece of equipment comparable to a unique-rated item, so many people wanted to go there to purchase battle gear. But it was impossible. Talima was located within the territory of the dragon Trauka, and was a city that humans couldn't enter.

"What if Reidan has items like Talima?"

Certainly, the city would be able to show off a unique presence. People would come from all over the continent to Reidan. Rabbit hoped that day would come, so he encouraged the training of blacksmiths and invested in alchemy.

"Alchemy is a way to make the items produced by you and your blacksmiths shine. I am convinced that the only city on the continent worthy of investing in alchemy is Reidan."

"Hrmm..."

If it developed the way Rabbit wished, a huge economic effect would be created. Grid hoped for that day as well. But.

"Isn't the success rate of alchemy the worst? Can we afford it? What if we have bad luck and become bankrupt instead of becoming the second Talima?"

"Do you remember Administrator Arik?"

"Arik? Ahh, the lord of this place until I was appointed?" Arik was a funny person. The episode related to him was a sight to behold. "Isn't he locked up in prison? What about him?"

"The reason Lauel didn't kill him was to retrieve information about the west from him. I was also able to gain valuable information from him."



"What information?"

"Somewhere in the west, there is a mine for yellow mithril."

"Yellow mithril?"

It was Rabbit's decisive reason for investing in alchemy.

"Yellow mithril is the material for fairy dust. And fairy dust is a raw material that dramatically increases the chances of alchemy succeeding. I am guessing that there is a yellow mithril mine in the southern basin of the Hebed River."

"Oh..."

It was a mineral that made it possible to overcome the low success rate of alchemy. Grid was thrilled. The radiant future of Reidan was drawn in his mind and he became excited.

"...By the way, what about the enhancement stones?"

He was still curious about the topic of conversation. Grid finally reached the limits of his patience so Rabbit cut to the chase.

"Enhancement stones can be made with alchemy."

"...!"

Grid's eyes widened. He thought enhancement stones only dropped from boss monsters, so he couldn't help feeling surprised.

"Generally, it is wiser to avoid making enhancement stones because the probability of success is extremely low. But that story will change if we get our hands on fairy dust."

It was the moment when the reason for Rabbit's lengthy explanation was revealed.

"So the conclusion is, please go and secure the mine."

"Okay."

Grid instantly replied. There was no reason to refuse. The boss monster might be hard for the Overgeared members to raid, but the story would be different if Grid and Noe's powers were added.

"Then I'll go immediately."

Grid was unstoppable once he made a decision. He immediately convened the Overgeared members. The Overgeared members were excited to be raiding with Grid after a long time.

"It's the first time since the golem invasion."

"We'll be able to knock down that monster if we have Grid."

Grid looked at the Overgeared members and asked them, "What type of monster is it? A demonkin?"

"No, it is a doppelganger."

"Doppelganger?"

A doppelganger was a monster that copied the form and abilities of the target. They were obviously hard to deal with but...

"Even if he turns into one of us, we have the advantage in numbers. Can't you easily defeat it?"

Pon explained, "As you said, the doppelganger is easy to deal with if it turns into one of us. But it's transforming into someone else who is much stronger than us."

Vantner continued. "It was really incredibly strong. The body is slim and the face is handsome, and he moves quickly while using a sword as big as Dainsleif."

Regas also spoke. "The way he moves the greatsword reminds me of you, Grid."

Faker added. "The basic moves are similar to Grid, but the sword techniques are several times better than Grid."

"Hrmm..."

The opponent was that great? Grid was very curious about the power of the doppelganger that the strongest people in the Overgeared Guild were praising.

'I will soon see.'

The Overgeared members finished their preparations. Grid commanded, "Depart. Jude, you will protect Reidan along with the soldiers."

"Yes..."

Jude was disappointed that he couldn't go with them and stepped back.

"I will accompany you."

The continent's strongest swordsman. It was Piaro. However, he was different from before. He was neatly shaved and wearing clean clothes. It was hard to imagine that he was a beggar a few months ago, as he was now giving off a strong impression.

"Please add your strength."

Grid gladly welcomed Piaro, while the Overgeared members were confused.

'Why is he taking a farmer along?'

A farmer was useless in a raid. What role did a farmer have in a raid? Farmers were meant to be in the fields. Lauel was about to say something, but stopped.

'That reminds me, isn't Piaro an expert in feng shui?'

Was Grid planning to use Piaro's power to secure useful lands?

'It is surprising. He's so clever...'

Lauel embraced the thought that Grid was growing. Grid seemed to be a completely different person than before.

## Chapter 229

In the National Competition and golem invasion event, Grid proved to be the strongest. But now two months of real time had passed after the golem invasion, so was he still the strongest?

『 I don't think so. 』

『 What's the basis for your claim? 』

『 The performance of a third advancement class is far superior to the second advancement class. It's on a completely different dimension. Most of the top 50 rankers have reached their third advancement class, so Duke Grid, who is immature in control, is no longer unique. 』

『 I agree. Duke Grid overpowered the rankers in the National Competition with his items and class, but now he's lost the advantage of his class. 』

『 What if Grid overcomes his insufficient control skills? 』

『 Haha! The possibility doesn't exist. Looking at it from a professional point of view, Duke Grid has no talent for control. The only advantage he has is his items. 』

『 The advantage will be offset by the fantastic control of the other ranked players. 』

As the information of the third advancement classes started to be revealed one by one, the experts started to criticize Grid. In the first place, Pagma's Descendant wasn't a class specialized in combat. The experts were convinced that the third advancement rankers would be able to show skills well beyond Grid.

At the Second National Competition in Paris nine months later, Grid wouldn't be able to win.

『 Ah, fans of Duke Grid, please don't misunderstand. I'm not disrespecting Grid himself. He is a good leader who has absorbed the Tzedakah Guild, and also have talented people like Huroi, Lauel, Euphemina and Ruby. 』

『 I also know that Duke Grid's blacksmith skills are great. However, we are currently analyzing Duke Grid's combat ability, so we have to criticize it. 』

In fact, Satisfy experts had a grudge against Grid. It was because their analysis of Grid during the National Competition was wrong and they were embarrassed in front of the public.

'It would be nice if Grid's era ends quickly.'

'I don't want to discuss Grid anymore. It's embarrassing every time my analysis is wrong.'

Would these wishes come true?

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"Sura Charge!"

Pepepepeong!

After converting to an Asura, Regas' combat power was twice as high as a martial artist. The enemy was confused by the punching and kicking changing trajectories, then he would dominate the battlefield by linking lightning and dark skills. The sight of him facing four giant worms simultaneously was excellent.

'He's stronger than when I won the duel. Has he completely adapted to his new class?'

"Nobody can call Regas a Taekwon Master now. Sooner or later, he will be called a war god."

"Yes."

As Grid and Lael admired him, the spear knight aboard a camel started moving.

Puk!Puk puk!

Rumble!

Kiyack!

A spear knight's attack power increased when riding on a 'mount' such as a horse or pet, so it was a spectacular sight. Even the monsters in the west were unable to cope with his blows. But it was impossible to kill the western monsters in one blow unless they were Grid.

Pon soon faced five giant worms. Was this a crisis? No.

"Gatling Spear."

Pepeng!Pepepeng!

The sonic spear moved several times in a fan-like range. Then the five giant worms became rags and transformed into light.

'Great.'

Gatling Spear exerted a power comparable to Pagma's Swordsmanship, Kill. Unlike the single-target Kill, it was a wide range attack. Grid was filled with admiration.

'I have higher stats than Pon and the performance of Failure is much better than Pon's weapon...'

Nevertheless, the difference in passive skills was too great. Combat classes all had the passive skill of Weapons Mastery, which had the effect of adding attack power. Meanwhile, Grid had a clear limit since he relied exclusively on Pagma's Swordsmanship.

[Pagma's Swordsmanship Lv. 2 (89.9%)]

-When the skill is deactivated-

You can become one with the sword at any time. Increases physical attack by 30%, critical hit rate by 20% and critical damage by 10%.

\* This effect is only applied when a sword type weapon is equipped.

\* The skill consumes no mana.

-When the skill is activated-

Become one with the sword. Wave, Restraint, Link, Kill, Transcend, Transcended Link and Linked Kill You can unleash a total of seven sword techniques.

\* The effect of the deactivated skill will be lost.

\* 20 mana is required to activate the skill.

\* Once deactivated, it will take 10 seconds until the skill can be activated again. Nothing will be consumed when deactivated.

Pagma's Swordsmanship had a fatal weakness. The effect of the passive skill disappeared when he used an active skill. The effect of a 30% increase in attack power, 20% increase in critical hit rate and 10% increase in critical damage wouldn't be applied to skills like Kill and Link.

'The passive skill only applied to the base damage... This is the limit of the class called Pagma's Descendant.'

But Grid wasn't worried. Rather, he was overflowing with confidence.

'Right now, Regas and Pon's strength might seem comparable to me, but that's only for the moment. That gap will increase again the moment I reach level 300.'

There was an old saying in games that 'levels were bullies.' That saying was also established in Satisfy.

10 stat points were gained every time the level increased, and users would become stronger as their stats increased. It wasn't just because of simple reasons like wearing better items or getting stronger skills, but also due to the unique function of stats.

For example, the strength stat. A level 200 user's strength stat had 0.3 attack power, 7 health points and a weight limit increase of 40 with every point. A level 300 user's strength stat had 0.4 attack power, 9 health points and a weight limit increased of 50 with every point.

In this way, the effect of the stats increased every 100 levels. This was called the stats awakening. The sum of the level 275 Grid's stats were currently higher than the stats of the level 300 Overgeared members. Looking at the total number of stats, Grid's level was nearly 380.

He went through a process called minus level, obtained special titles, and produced countless items. What if Grid reached level 300 and received the third stats awakening?

'The difference between our passive skills only applies for now.'

The source of Grid's power was his overwhelming stats. Grid was more familiar with this than anyone else, so he didn't have to be nervous about the growth of others.

'If I complete the Grid set then...'

He was the strongest.

"Huhuhu..."

'Why all of a sudden?'

Grid smiled and Lael felt a shiver. It was like encountering a monster on the level of a demonkin. Then Huroi shouted.

“My Lord! Seven basilisks are present 800 meters to the south!”

The Overgeared members were nervous.

“Seven basilisks?”

“We should bypass them.”

The respawn rate of the western monsters was unusually fast. If a battle lasted for an extended period of time in one place, they would end up surrounded by monsters. The basilisk was one of the strongest monsters in the west, so it was obvious they would face a crisis if they had to fight seven of them.

“There is a small mountain to the west. It might delay our journey, but we can bypass the monsters.”

“I don’t want to.” Grid ignored Lael’s advice and grabbed Failure. “I haven’t hunted in 131 days. I will use this opportunity to increase my experience.”

The desert was a harsh terrain. Every time they moved, their feet sank into the sand, severely limiting their movements. The Overgeared members were experts in combat and already adapted to the desert terrain, but what about Grid?

The Overgeared members were worried. Grid’s dull movements and lack of combat sense meant it was impossible for him to exert his full power in the desert. So they were going to move first to clear any monsters they encountered on the journey to their destination.

But what was the truth?

Jebeok jebeok.

Grid was armed with heavy boots and walked in the desert like it was a plains area. He even sped up and ran. This was due to the thorough education from Piaro.

“Huh...?”

“What has gotten into Grid...?”

The Overgeared members doubted their eyes.

Kiyaaak!

A basilisk noticed a human running over and opened its mouth. Then the light of petrification that also caused great damage flashed. It was a skill that was hard to respond to because the range of the light was wide and fast.

The Overgeared members were sure that Grid would suffer great damage. Grid lacked control skills, so he was always hit by monsters. They thought it would be the same again this time. However.

“Have I only fought you once or twice?”

Grid had moved to Reidan from Patrian. Grid had been taught by Piaro and killed numerous basilisks, so he already predicted this. He was able to accurately estimate the timing of the flash and fired Pagma's Swordsmanship, Wave to offset it. Then he approached the basilisk that was slowed, used Blacksmith's Rage and stabbed the basilisk in its weak eyes.

Kiyaaaaah!

The basilisk struggled from the pain. Suddenly, the six other basilisks surrounded Grid and swung their tails.

"My Lord!"

"Grid!"

The Overgeared members paled. If the six basilisks attacked at the same time, Grid would definitely die. But Grid was already in the rear. He avoided four tails flying from the front, and defended against the other tails using the pavranium.

Jjeejeeong!

Kieek?

The basilisks were confused at the appearance of the golden blades that blocked their attacks. They felt danger. It was because they saw the black eyes of the human in the gap between the golden blades, looking at them like they were prey.

One of the top predators of the desert was prey? This human was dangerous. The basilisks were instinctively engulfed in fear.

"First one."

Grid stepped forward towards the basilisk that he had attacked first.

Teong!

The heavy weight of Grid's boots made the desert sand run loose. Then Grid's greatsword, which had a different power than before, struck the basilisk's wounded eyes. This wasn't the end. Grid evaded the basilisk's subsequent counterattack and triggered Pagma's Swordsmanship.

The sword followed the movements while he evaded.

"Kill."

Peeeeong!

The blue greatsword reminiscent of an ocean predator penetrated the skull of the basilisk.

Kuwaaah!

One of the seven basilisks instantly turned into a grey light. The Overgeared members couldn't close their mouths as they watched.

"Is that Grid?"

The control skills that Grid used at this moment weren't particularly outstanding. Anyone who played the game could show such movements. But who was Grid? He was mocked by everyone for having poor control skills. This person who wasn't talented was taught the skills.

He overcame the weakness in himself.

'Has Grid always been working where we couldn't see him?'

'How much effort did he put in?'

'This is truly my lord! I am proud!'

"No, aren't you going to help me? Aaaaack!"

"..."

While the Overgeared members were feeling thrilled, Grid was becoming bloody due to the other six basilisks. The party window showed that his health gauge was exponentially dropping. The Overgeared members freaked out as they saw it and hurriedly moved to save him.

On the other hand, Piaro observed Grid's battle from beginning to end and clicked his tongue.

"Really, there are no signs of improvement."

Vantner heard Piaro's voice and shook his head.

'This farmer isn't sane either.'

Chapter 230

"My Lord! There are 15 cacti in a cluster 400m ahead! It is presumed to be mine cacti in disguise, so pay special attention..."

"Advance and destroy them!"

"My Lord! Two golden toads in the oasis are mating! It is wiser to bypass them..."

"Two field bosses appeared at the same time? This is a jackpot! Charge!"

"My Lord! Dozens of desert toads are chasing us 800m in the rear! We have to speed up or they will catch us...!"

"Do they want revenge for the golden toads? Okay! Stop! We will meet the prey who are willingly coming to us!"

"My Lord... There is a small nest of giant worms below the mountain..."

"Go in and sweep them up!"

"..."

From the sky, Huroi was able to grasp the terrain in advance and discover the enemies. If he depended on his scouting ability as master of a drake, he would be able to minimize their clashes with monsters until they reached their destination.



But who was Grid? He was enthusiastic after not hunting for a long time, so the monsters of the west were destined to be destroyed. If Huroi discovered an enemy, Grid rushed in, rather than avoiding it. Due to that, the Overgeared members became tired.

"Pant pant! Damn, doesn't Grid get tired?"

"I feel it every time, but Grid's stamina is much higher than we think."

"Uhh... It's unbearably hot."

It was very hard to march through the desert. The Overgeared members were top rankers, but they were also users. Due to the repeated battles and heat, their stamina was quickly depleted. On the other hand, Grid was fine. His stamina was twice as high as the Overgeared members thanks to his persistence stat, which he raised through labor and blacksmith work.

'No matter how strong the monsters in the west are, fields bosses have obvious limits.'

Field bosses were weaker than quest bosses or dungeon bosses, and their item drop rate was also low. Grid and the Overgeared members hunted one large cactus and two golden toads, but only obtained two epic items and five enhancement stones.

As Grid was feeling disappointment, "River!"

"We've finally arrived!"

The group arrived at the Hebed River. It was only 10 hours from Reidan. If they fully exploited Huroi's scouting ability, they would've been able to arrive within three hours. However, Grid made their journey at least three times longer.

"Grid, all the guild members are tired. It's late at night, so why don't we take a break?" Pon suggested.

Grid checked the status of the Overgeared members.

"I understand. Get ready to camp."

Stamina recovery was slow outdoors. Meals and simple rest weren't sufficient, so it was better to take a short nap. The Overgeared members gathered near the river and pulled out a tents from the inventory. They were impressed when they saw Grid setting up his. It was because Grid's setting up skill wasn't ordinary.

"Wow, isn't this great? It is the first time I've seen someone build a tent as quickly as Grid."

"Has he set up a lot of tents in reality? Does he go camping often?"

'What camping...'

Grid didn't have any friends to go camping with. The reason why Grid's tent building skill was so good was because he was thoroughly trained in the army. Grid had over 3,000 dexterity points, so he could set up a tent several times faster than ordinary users.

Were there any advantages to building a tent quickly? No. It wouldn't be helpful in reality unless he had a lover to go on a camping trip with.

"Let's eat."

Once the setting up of tents was complete, the Overgeared members sat down in front of a fire. The food they prepared was common. It was the rainbow potato, the only food currently grown in Reidan.

"I'm sick of eating this for every meal."

"I agree."

The rainbow potato had seven flavors. The red portion had a meat flavor, the yellow portion was fried shrimp flavor, the orange portion was tangerine sauce, and so on. It had a soft, strong or delicious taste, but in the end, it was just a potato. Basically, it was hard because they had to eat this for every meal.

"It would be nice if we had a good chef."

In the case of a chef with high cooking skills, it was possible to make food using wild grasses and monsters. In addition, the dishes would give a small buff so it was a very useful ability.

'Euphemina can duplicate the cooking skill...'

Euphemina wasn't included in this raid. Currently, she was making a great contribution to the security and internal affairs development of Reidan by duplicating skills like the monster taming, blacksmithing, alchemy, building, etc. It was too much to rely on her for cooking as well, so Grid shook his head.

'We can't always depend on Euphemina.'

She might leave the guild. In fact, there was a limit to relying on only one person, so Grid decided that it was better to recruit users with various secondary classes like chefs.

"Now my eyes are tired."

"What should we do?"

The guild members finished their meal. Grid rose from his spot and proclaimed, "Leave the lookout position to me. Everybody, you should get a good sleep."

Grid had matured and was now sacrificing himself for his colleagues. But the Overgeared members refused.

"Grid is the core power of this raid group. You can't overdo it."

"Don't worry. I'm still okay because I have a lot of stamina."

"It isn't enough just to be okay. You have to be well prepared. The opponent is strong."

In the end, Grid was excluded from being on guard and the members started to consult among themselves. The scheduled break was four hours. In the meantime, eight people should stand guard in intervals of 30 minutes.

"The eight people with the highest stamina stat will have to sacrifice 30 minutes."

Every time.

The higher the stamina stat, the higher the maximum stamina and the quicker the recovery speed. Therefore, the guard positions were always taken by the tankers. Vantner and Toban groaned.

"I'm tired of being a tanker all day long..."

"A tanker is a sinner."

It might be a reasonable method, but the tankers couldn't help complaining. Lauel watched them and made a wise suggestion.

"Why doesn't Piaro stand guard?"

On the way here. It was obvious but Piaro didn't take part in any battles. He just had to walk. Lauel guessed that Piaro still had a lot of stamina left.

'A legendary farmer should have high basic stats... A four hour guard shift shouldn't be a huge burden to him.'

Piaro readily nodded at Lauel's suggestion. "I understand. Leave it to me and get a good night's sleep."

"Ohh!"

The faces of the Overgeared members brightened. They didn't know why Piaro participated in this raid, but they were delighted that he was here. However, some people showed negative reactions.

"This is a danger zone, so we shouldn't leave the guard position to a farmer."

"That's right. What if monsters hide in the fog at dawn and attack? A farmer wouldn't be able to detect the attack of a monster, so we will be vulnerable to danger."

'They don't know the honor it is to have a great swordsman standing guard...'

Grid found this situation hilarious. How long would they mistake Piaro for a farmer? It was interesting to watch since he knew the truth. He smiled and settled the situation. "You shouldn't doubt Piaro's ability to be a lookout. Don't you know that he is a legendary farmer, not an ordinary farmer?"

"...?"

The Overgeared members were confused.

"Why should a legendary farmer be good at being a lookout?"

"Explain it so that we can understand."

"..."

Grid was stressed because the members asked for clarification. It was impossible to give a convincing explanation since it was just a thoughtless remark that he spoke.

At that moment, Lauel made a guess. "Farmers have to protect their fields from ice, beasts and monsters. A legendary farmer should have an excellent ability to defend his fields, meaning that his ability to sense beasts and monsters is sharp. This is the reason why Grid told us to trust the legendary farmer."

"That's right."

Grid agreed with Lauel's interpretation. The Overgeared members with a negative reaction started to understand.

"I see... Farmers have this ability..."

"Okay then. Piaro, please work hard for four hours. It is a request."

The Overgeared members entered their tents. Pon was the last one to enter and he spoke to Piaro.

"There is a huge monster that lives in Hebed River. It's extremely powerful, unlike the golden toads that we hunted during the day. If it emerges, let us know without any delay."

"Yes."

Pon finally entered his tent. Piaro sat in front of a campfire alone and recalled the past.

'It reminds me of my days as a knight.'

During his time in the Red Knights, they went on many expeditions and set up campsites. At that time, he was with his colleagues. But due to Asmophel's false accusation, they were all dead.

Tadak.Tak.

"..."

Piario was organizing the branches for the campfire when he suddenly shifted his gaze to the river. It was early dawn. Something was moving silently in the fog. It was hard to detect even by the most skilled person. But who was Piario? It was extremely rare that anything could succeed in an ambush in front of a great swordsman.

"You are the monster of Hebed River."

Piario threw the branch he was holding into the river. As he threw it into the river, something let out a sharp scream.

On this day. The top predator of the Hebed River for the last decade met its end.

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"Okay, perfect."

Grid and the Overgeared members slept for four hours and recovered enough stamina. They ate a rainbow potato and moved straight to their destination. They finally reached the edge of the mountains after passing through large and small ghost villages.

Grid and the Overgeared members no longer encountered monsters. Grid was puzzled by the bamboo forest that stretched along the mountain path.

"How was this forest preserved without being turned into a desert? Is this place safe from the giant worms?"

Lauel explained. "The doppelganger here blocks the path of monsters as well as humans. Thanks to it, this forest and the mine in the mountains behind it are safely preserved."

"Hrmm..."

It was a strange phenomenon where a monster defended the land from another monster. Grid felt great interest as he stepped into the bamboo forest. At that moment.

[You have entered the mysterious forest.]

[Your mind has become calm.]

[You will be helpless in the midst of this tranquility.]

[You have resisted.]

"Ugh...! This feeling is so disgusting."

"I just want to sleep."

With the exception of Grid, the Overgeared members were overcome by the helpless feeling. Their bodies became limp and they had pained expressions on their faces. On the other hand, Grid kept moving forward and was astonished.

"...Pagma?"

The center of the forest where bamboo soared into the sky. One man was sitting on a flat rock. He had an egg-shaped face on a slender body. White skin and red lips. His long eyes that were smiling. He gave off such a beautiful and neat impression that it was hard to believe he was a man. He looked exactly like Pagma, who Grid had seen depicted on the murals at Loran Falls.

Suuk.

Pagma sat quietly on the rock and slowly moved. The silk clothes that seemed to come from the Joseon Era flapped as he moved and shifted his gaze towards Grid. The look in those eyes contained outright hostility.